

From: [Human Services Division](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
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HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

June/July Update



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Benjamin Benhuri has volunteered more than 1,500 hours at the Venice Family Clinic (VFC) since 2011. He volunteers as a Clinic Assistant, assists physicians in practicing street medicine, helps out in the major departments and takes a part in all major fundraising events. VFC staff members describe him as kindhearted, mature, respectful, a natural leader, someone who goes above and beyond in his projects and provides excellent care. Thank you Benjamin for helping to make our community a happier and healthier place!



USICH Appoints New Executive Director

U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez recently announced that Matthew Doherty has been named Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Doherty has over 22 years of experience working to prevent and work toward an end to homelessness communities across the country and across a wide variety of sectors.

As the Executive Director of USICH, Mr. Doherty is responsible for the implementation of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, an effort that includes the coordination of Federal homelessness policies and strategies among 19 Federal departments and agencies, as well as partnerships with state and local communities, non-profits, and the private sector. Under his leadership, USICH provides technical assistance and support to communities across the country, building systems of care that ensure individuals, families, youth, and Veterans are able to obtain or regain permanent

Have volunteers that deserve recognition? Please send a short description about their contributions to humanservices@smgov.net or call (310) 458-8701.

housing as quickly as possible and access services to remain stably housed.

Mr. Doherty most recently worked as a consultant and also held positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the San Diego Housing Commission.

SAVE THE DATE!



2015 SCANPH Conference

Los Angeles

September 17 & 18

The Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing is celebrating 30 years!

Highlights will include an affordable housing bus tour of Los Angeles!

Early bird registration takes place now through July 31st. Registration will close September 4th. For more information, click [here](#).



2015 National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference

Phoenix

November 14-17

Learn the latest information and techniques around the education efforts for



USICH Releases 2015 Amendment to OPENING DOORS: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

The Opening Doors Plan, originally released in 2010, was the nation's first comprehensive Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. It provides a roadmap for coordinated, joint action among USICH member agencies in conjunction with local and state partners.

Since its launch five years ago, the trajectory of homelessness in America has changed dramatically. According to the 2014 Point-in-Time count, overall homelessness has declined nationwide by 10 percent since 2010. Homelessness among families with children has decreased 15 percent. The number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness has fallen by 21 percent, and homelessness among Veterans has fallen by 33 percent. There is also more knowledge about the unique circumstances facing youth experiencing homelessness.

Key new elements added to the Plan through this amendment include an operational definition for ending homelessness, clarifications regarding the role of Medicaid in financing services for permanent supportive housing, an updated discussion of the use of metrics and accountability and improved guidance for retooling crisis response systems.

This Amendment also adjusts the goal of ending chronic homelessness from 2015 to 2017. The change reflects the need for additional resources to achieve the goal nationally, although there are states and communities who can achieve the goal ahead of 2017 if they continue to act with urgency and use existing resources in support of the most effective practices.

As amended, Opening Doors sets, and remains focused on, four key goals:

- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017

homeless youth.

There will be pre-conference institutes beginning November 14th.

For more information, click [here](#).

Prevent and end homelessness among families, youth, and children in 2020

- Set a path to ending all type of homelessness.

To learn more about this 2015 Amendment, click [here](#).

VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteers Welcome to Sort Produce

Westside Food Bank has set aside time for volunteers to sort produce every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 am. No reservations are needed. The address is 1710 22nd Street, Santa Monica 90404.



United Homeless Healthcare Partners (UHHP) Training Opportunities

UHHP provides comprehensive trainings for Case Managers and Resident Managers serving the homeless community. A selection of classes is implemented year round throughout Los Angeles County.

Upcoming Summer and Fall class information can be found [here](#).



Bringing It Home is a newsletter of the Human Services Division of the Community & Cultural Services Department.

This newsletter is available in alternate formats upon request.

Contact the Human Services Division at 310-458-8701 or humanservices@smgov.net.



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